

SEATTLE FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN 2004 UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction — Freight mobility is an important component of SDOT's family of services to maintain and enhance economic activity in Seattle and the State of Washington. Freight mobility issues are particularly important for Seattle's two designated manufacturing and industrial centers — the Greater Duwamish Manufacturing and Industrial Center and the Ballard/Interbay/North Manufacturing and Industrial Center (BINMIC). The manufacturing and maritime sectors provide more than 121,700 accessible, family-wage jobs which comprise 24.2% of all jobs in Seattle. Direct and reliable transportation connections to water, rail, airport and truck facilities are crucial to ensuring the region's economic growth and well being.

Background — In order to guide the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) efforts to improve freight mobility, SDOT prepared the City's first *Freight Mobility Strategic Action Plan* in November 2002. The Plan's actions addressed the anticipated administrative and functional actions to be carried out by the respective SDOT divisions to benefit freight pursuant to adopted City policy. In recognition of the importance of freight mobility, SDOT established a Freight Mobility Coordinator position to serve as the department point-of-contact with the freight community and to better integrate freight within ongoing plans, programs, projects and operating practices.

Freight Action Plan 2004 Update — SDOT has prepared this first annual update to the *Action Plan* to reflect changes in the City's freight program; funding opportunities; new actions to be done in 2004 in coordination with the freight community; and to report on implementation completed in 2003. The Plan is divided into five key areas: *Truck Access*, *Rail Access*, *Freight Access to Manufacturing and Industrial Areas*, *Port of Seattle Container & Cargo Terminals*, and *Retail Goods Delivery*. Within each subject area, specific actions and assigned completion dates have been identified. Appendix 1 lists 2003 accomplishments and activities. Appendix 2 presents the results of a survey of the freight community's opinions of the relative priority of the proposed SDOT actions. Appendix 3 includes the City's *Comprehensive Plan* freight mobility goals and the associated City *Transportation Strategic Plan* strategies.

Overview of Planned Actions in the 2004 Plan Update — The actions include updating SDOT street design practices, a long-term program of railroad grade separations, truck guide signing, and street improvements for the benefit of trucks, rail and other modes. Examples of actions are: 1) pursue funding for and implement priority truck access projects including the Spokane St. Viaduct, Lander St. Grade Separation, Truck Spot Improvements, E Marginal and Spokane Grade Separation, Leary Way, SR 519 Surface Street Project, and Duwamish Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS); 2) incorporate freight operations design needs into the update of the Right-of-Way Improvement (ROW) Manual, for example, larger design vehicles where appropriate; and 3) complete the BNSF Railroad Third Mainline Track and Signal Improvements in coordination with Sound Transit.

Freight Community Partnership — In October 2002, the Seattle Freight Mobility Advisory Committee, co-sponsored by SDOT and the Seattle Manufacturing Industrial Council (MIC), was formed to provide a regular forum for communication with City staff and other agencies. This Committee was established to provide a forum for giving input on projects and programs of interest to the freight community and to exchange information. SDOT looks to the citywide freight committee to represent the interest of various freight transportation providers and operators (including the modes of truck, rail and marine transport), and to reflect the interests of constituents both in the north and south industrial areas of the City. The Committee meets on a monthly basis at the MIC offices located in Georgetown to encourage freight community attendance and participation.

Contacts — For further information on the *Action Plan* and the City's freight mobility program, please contact Ron Borowski, Freight Mobility Coordinator, at (206) 684-8370 and by email at: ron.borowski@seattle.gov, or Ann Sutphin, Senior Transportation Planner, at (206) 684-8374 and by email at ann.sutphin@seattle.gov.